Message Text

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44

ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 OMB-01 EB-07 SSO-00 /059 W

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P R 141516Z FEB 75 FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8000 INFO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE DOD WASH DC CSAF WASH DC CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MASS, PFOR, NI, US

SUBJECT: US MILITARY AIRLIFT FOR TWO NIGERIAN VESSELS

REF: THE HAGUE 0756

- 1. DESPITE UNUSUAL NATURE OF REQUEST REPORTED REFTEL, WE BELIEVE USG EFFORT TO ASSIST NIGERIAN ON REIMBURSABLE BASIS WOULD BE VERY MUCH IN OUR INTEREST.
- 2. EMBASSY IS, OF COURSE, UNABLE DETERMINE FROM HERE WHETHER PROPOSED AIRLIFT OF NIGERIAN BOATS WOULD BE TECHNICALLY FEASIBLE. IF IT CAN BE DONE, HOWEVER, POSITIVE USG RESPONSE WOULD BE DRAMATIC WAY OF DEMONSTRATING THAT WE ARE NOT AS "INDIFFERENT" TO NIGERIAN DESIRES AS IS OFTEN ALLEGED. AIRLIFT WOULD ALSO PROVIDE IMPRESSIVE DISPLAY OF US TECHNICAL CAPABILITIES, EARNING US FAVORABLE COMMERCIAL AS WELL AS POLITICAL PUBLICITY.
- 3. IN VIEW SHORT TIME FRAME, EARLY DECISION ON TECHNICAL FEASIBILITY AND ON USG WILLINGNESS UNDERTAKE AIRLIFT WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL IN CASE KLM CHARTER MENTIONED PARA 3 REFTEL FALLS THROUGH AND REQUEST FOR USAF ASSISTANCE REITERATED BY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AMBASSADOR AHMADU-SUKA. WE COULD THEN QUICKLY CONFIRM WITH

FMG HERE THAT AHMADU-SUKA'S MANDATE TO ARRANGE TRANSPORTATION FOR VESSELS EXTENDS TO ENGAGING USAF ON REIMBURSABLE BASIS.

4. APPRECIATE BEING KEPT INFORMED AS DISCUSSIONS PROCEED. REINHARDT

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Message Attributes

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TAGS: MASS, PFOR, NI, US To: STATE

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